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## The Passing of an Interdisciplinary Scholar

UB Law Forum

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# Solutions that work

*New collaboration sheds light on public policy challenges*



Joseph Belluck '94

From sanctuary cities to immigrant rights, from criminal justice reform to the opioid crisis, New York's state and local governments are wrestling with some of the most difficult issues of our time. But where can policy makers find solid research and information on solutions that work?

Enter the new Center for Law and Policy Solutions, developed by the Rockefeller Institute of Government, the State University of New York's public policy research arm. UB School of Law will be a key partner in the center's work, in concert with units of Albany Law School and the University of Albany.

The Center for Law and Policy Solutions will examine pressing societal issues that raise questions of law and policy, with special attention to their effects on local communities. It will be led by Dr. Katie Zuber, the Rockefeller Institute's assistant director for policy and research.

Student interns will play a key role, helping researchers to analyze and interpret research findings and

communicate them to lawmakers and others in a position to act on them.

"As New York State's flagship public law school with a long-standing history of interdisciplinary education in the pursuit of social justice, the University at Buffalo School of Law is particularly suited to partner in this critical effort to craft real solutions for New York citizens," says **Dean Aviva Abramovsky**, who will serve as part of a five-person advisory committee for the center. "Together we can achieve results none of us could do alone."

UB Law alum **Joseph Belluck '94**, a member of the SUNY Board of Trustees, will also serve on the advisory committee.

"The center will be on the cutting edge of analyzing problems at the intersection of law and policy," Belluck says. "The serious issues facing our society in regards to immigration and criminal justice demand serious analysis. The CLPS will pull together the best minds to significantly move the dial on these issues."

# The passing of an interdisciplinary scholar



Richard D. Schwartz

**Richard D. "Red" Schwartz**, who served from 1971 to 1976 as UB School of Law's 12th dean, died Oct. 10 at his home. He was 92 years old.

Schwartz, who earned bachelor's and doctoral degrees from Yale University, was a sociologist of law and brought that focus to his deanship, expanding the school's course offerings taught from the perspective of other academic disciplines and supporting faculty interest in the field. He was the first and only dean of the law school who was not a lawyer.

He held the school's top position at a time of great change in the nation and at UB. As the women's movement came into full flower, women began making up a greater proportion of Buffalo Law students, as did historically underrepresented minorities. Also under Schwartz's leadership, the School of Law appointed its first African-American lecturer, its first African-American assistant professor and its first tenured female professor. The school also hired its first full-time placement director, forerunner of today's busy Career Services Office.

When John Lord O'Brian Hall was dedicated in 1974, it was Schwartz who welcomed the first class of law students to the Amherst campus.

"I believe that I am the last full-time faculty member who knew 'Red,'" says **Professor John Henry Schlegel**. "It was a great idea to hire him, and doing so made this a better place."

Schwartz focused his own legal scholarship on natural law, administrative law and the impact of welfare reform. After leaving UB School of Law, he held an endowed chair at Syracuse University College of Law; he also taught at Yale and Northwestern universities.

Legend has it, says **Professor David Engel**, that the first national meeting of the Law & Society Association took place in the Schwartzes' living room. Schwartz was a co-founder of that scholarly organization, which now numbers in the thousands and is the world's premier organization for the interdisciplinary study of law.

An advocate for global peace, Schwartz also helped found the Syracuse-Area Middle East Dialogue Group. He co-authored and edited numerous books.

Survivors include his wife of 71 years, Emilie; a son, David; two daughters, Jane and Debbie; and three grandchildren.

To hear an excerpt from Dean Schwartz's oral history interview, visit [www.tinyurl.com/richard-schwartz](http://www.tinyurl.com/richard-schwartz).